

## **EPA Region 6 Fiscal Year 2007 Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP)**

### **I. Funding Opportunity Description**

The principal focus of GAP is development of general tribal environmental capability. Assistance may be provided under this program only for activities which the Agency determines are appropriate to carry out the purposes of the Act (Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act of 1992, Public Law 102-497, Section 11, 42 U.S.C. 4368b, as amended, Public Law 103-155). Regulations for this program may be found in 40 CFR Part 35.

GAP supports development of environmental protection programs. A GAP grant offers a unique opportunity for a tribe to build capacity necessary to administer its own integrated environmental program, develop the capability to manage specific programs and establish a core program for environmental protection. Activities eligible for funding under this program are those for planning, developing, and establishing capability to implement environmental protection programs. Additional allowable activities under GAP include the development and implementation of Solid and Hazardous Waste (SW/HW) projects. Consistent with national guidance, we believe requests for funding of SW/HW programs and projects made as part of your GAP application should promote the development of self-sustaining programs, prevention programs, and one-time cleanups, rather than long term operation and maintenance (O&M) activities.

### **II. Award Information**

We request that your GAP proposal include work plan activities with a maximum base budget of \$110,000. Final funding amounts will depend on work plan negotiations with your Project Officer. Some awards may be reduced due to prior GAP performance problems, such as incomplete deliverables, late reporting and consistently high account balances. GAP grant project periods may not exceed four years, but at the end of a four-year grant period, tribes and intertribal consortia may apply for new GAP grants. Successful applicants will receive assistance in either a Grant Agreement or a Cooperative Agreement. Applicants are not required to provide any matching share of GAP project costs.

In addition to the base funding level, the Region is offering two opportunities to meet additional environmental needs: 1) Solid and hazardous waste implementation, and 2) Additional Environmental Needs. For both of these funding opportunities, we ask that your requests be described separately from the base program.

- **Solid and Hazardous Waste** Our office is reserving approximately \$500,000 for solid and hazardous waste (SW/HW) implementation projects. This reserve is intended to serve as one-time funding for self-sustained projects rather than long term operation and maintenance (O&M) activities. We intend to focus on the cleanup of dumpsites. Proposals must be described separately from the base program and are limited to a maximum budget of \$100,000 and an estimated project period of one year. The following factors and principles will be considered in making determinations regarding funding of SW/HW implementation proposals:

- the removal of abandoned waste from land;
- the prior performance under EPA grants of the grantee;
- the feasibility of the proposal;
- the sustainability of the project(s);
- the reasonableness of costs cited for the activities;
- the known health impact and known environmental impacts.

- **Additional Environmental Needs** The Region will consider funding requests to meet additional environmental needs. We do not anticipate available funds will cover many, if any, of these additional needs.

For this fiscal year, the Region's funding priorities will be:

- 1) Funding of \$110,000 for eligible tribal applicants;
- 2) Funding of \$110,000 for a limited number of eligible consortia;
- 3) GAP Support Activities (RTOC, Tribal Summit, Technical Assistance, etc.);
- 4) Solid Waste/Hazardous Waste additional projects not covered in base funding;
- 5) Funding of existing multi-year programs;
- 6) Funding of new multi-year programs;
- 7) Funding for additional tribal environmental needs.

Please note that \$50,000 of the FY07 funds will be reserved to be used at the discretion of the Region 6 Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs Director for emergency and/or critical needs in Indian country.

Grantees that are already funded through the end of FY08 are invited to submit proposals for Solid Waste projects and additional tribal environmental needs.

### **III. Eligibility Information**

Eligible applicants include Region 6 Federally recognized tribes and intertribal consortia. An intertribal consortium is eligible to receive GAP grants if the consortium can adequately document that all member tribes authorize the consortium to apply for and receive the grant.

### **IV. Application and Submission Information**

#### **Proposals**

A GAP proposal, consisting of a work plan, budget narrative and the SF-424a budget pages must be submitted to your Project Officer. **The proposal must be postmarked or emailed no later than April 09, 2007.** This proposal does not require leadership signatures. A complete application, along with all certifications, will be required after successful negotiations with your Project Officer. **Complete applications must be postmarked no later than May 31, 2007.**

\*\*\*\*\*NEW FOR 2007\*\*\*\*\*

Effective January 1, 2007, EPA requires a standardized work plan format for all new GAP awards and supplemental amendments to existing awards. EPA is requiring the standardized GAP work plan format to ensure collection of the minimum information needed for national reporting purposes. A website link to the GAP work plan template as well as the 2006 Grant Administrative Guidance and the interim 2007 Grant Administrative Guidance are included with this notice.

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Recently, EPA has been criticized for approving work plans that had nebulous or lacked environmental outcomes. To address these concerns, EPA has promulgated EPA Order 5700.7 "Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements." The Order requires a direct link between work plan commitments and environmental results. Therefore, our office will be placing a great emphasis on ensuring work plans contain well defined outputs that can be linked to environmental results. Copies of the Order are issued to the Region and are available upon request.

An acceptable work plan must be consistent with 40 CFR Part 35.507, which requires work years and funding level estimates for components. At the request of the national program office, a template is provided for your use.

We are again offering the option of submitting multi-year GAP proposals. Please remember that the GAP statute limits project and budget periods to no more than four years. Thus, if you are currently in the third year of your GAP grant and would like to submit a multi-year proposal, you must be willing to close your current GAP grant and begin a new grant cycle.

#### Complete Applications

Applicants must submit a full application postmarked no later than May 31, 2007.

Applicants must include:

- 1) Application for Federal Assistance (SF424)
- 2) Budget Information Non-Construction Programs (SF 424A)
- 3) Assurances Non Construction Programs (SF 424B)
- 4) Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters (EPA Form 5700-49)
- 5) Certification Regarding Lobbying
- 6) Pre-award Compliance Review Report (4700-4)
- 7) Key Contact List

You can obtain the forms required for the full application package from your Project Officer or online at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/>

Please submit your complete application to:

U.S. EPA Region 6 (6RA-DT)  
Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs  
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200  
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

## **V. Application Review Information**

Evaluations of applications will be based on the following:

- 1) Commitments listed in the work plan are allowable under GAP.
- 2) Commitments in the work plan do not unnecessarily duplicate past efforts.
- 3) The work plan identifies Environmental Results.
- 4) Costs are reasonable and allowable.
- 5) The scope of work builds tribal capacity to addresses environmental risks and environmental program needs.

## **VI. Award Administration**

### **Award Notice**

Funded tribes will receive an Assistance Agreement signed by the Award Official. The tribal leader must return a signed copy of the Assistance Agreement to EPA within three calendar weeks after receiving of the letter. The Assistance Agreement will specify the budget and project period dates which represents the allowable time period for performing the activities under the award.

### **Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

Regulations governing the award and the administration of environmental programs for tribes and tribal consortia can be found in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 31 and 35, Subpart B (40 CFR 35.500-35.518).

### **Reporting**

At a minimum, grantees will be required to submit an annual programmatic progress report within 90 days of the end of the fiscal year. However, some grantees may be required or may negotiate to submit either semiannual or quarterly programmatic progress reports. Semiannual reports are due 30 days after the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> fiscal quarter and 30 days after the end of the fiscal year. Quarterly reports are due 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter. Programmatic reports must document the progress in performing the commitments listed in the work plan and the reports must describe any problems with completing the commitments and the recipient's plan for resolving the problems. Programmatic reports must comply with the regulations listed in CFR 40 Part 31.40 and CFR 40 Part 35.515.

Financial Status Reports (FSRs) are required and must, at a minimum, be submitted within 90 days of the end of the project period. However, some grantees may be required or may negotiate to submit FSRs more frequently. A Final FSR must be submitted within 90 days of

the assistance agreement's expiration. FSRs must comply with all the Assistance Agreement's Terms and Conditions as well as with the regulations listed in CFR 40 Part 31.41.

## **VII. Agency Contacts**

For further information please feel free to contact the Tribal Team at 800-887-6063. Or via mail at:

U.S. EPA Region 6 (6RA-DT)  
Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs  
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200  
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

## **VIII. Other Information**

A website link to the Indian General Assistance Program 2006 Grant Administration Guidance, a sample work plan template and the 2007 Grant Administration Guidance are included with this notice.